



# London Bangladeshi Health Partnership (LBHP) Project

## What is London Bangladeshi Health Partnership?

*The London Bangladeshi Health Partnership brings together an interdisciplinary group of key health partners with Bangladeshi community organisations and representatives.*

*The aim is to support the development of a strategic workplan, to respond to the health priorities of Bangladeshi communities in London. It will seek to mitigate health inequity and provide regional leadership to support embedding the lessons learned from the pandemic in terms of working directly with communities.*

*Co-production will be achieved via the multi-agency nature of the partnership, supporting links into the community as well as bringing together good practice across the London health system, providing a forum to discuss and address key health issues and respond to live issues and campaigns as they emerge.*

## LBHP Aims

- ✓ *To support immunisation and screening strategy and activity for all Bangladeshi communities across London (recognising the various communities are not homogenous) •To support a focused strategy for broader health initiatives and specific health needs/challenges in a holistic way, that are relevant to Bangladeshi communities and determined at community level (specific objectives will be highlighted in the LBHP strategic action plan).*
- ✓ *To develop a collective voice for the LBHP.*
- ✓ *To ensure alignment with regional anti-racist initiatives.*
- ✓ *To bring together ongoing work and good practice for health equity amongst Bangladeshi communities in London, at local level and regionally, as well as providing a forum for sharing resources, funding, and research opportunities across the health system.*
- ✓ *To consult with communities to establish preferred communication strategies.*
- ✓ *To support local areas on specific larger pieces of work pertaining to the mitigation of health inequity amongst Bangladeshi communities in London.*
- ✓ *To improve the communication and collaboration of statutory and non-statutory organisations working with Bangladeshi communities across London.*
- ✓ *To collect and share data to inform and evaluate the main priorities and health needs of Bangladeshi communities.*
- ✓ *To be a link for national and local partners working in this space.*





## *London's Bangladeshi diaspora*

People started coming to the UK from, what is now known as Bangladesh, from the early twentieth century, becoming a distinct group by 1960s.

The British Bangladeshi community has excelled in the business sector, technical professions and in local and national politics. Currently there are around 100 British-Bangladeshi councillors and four Members of Parliament (MPs) and numerous majors in the UK.

Boishakhi Mela in London has been a longstanding feature as a huge and widely acclaimed celebration of the Bengali New Year and brings the East End to life in a blaze of colour and music.

Bangladeshi restaurants form an essential component of the London and British Curry Sector and the cultural contributions made by the Bangladeshi community to the East End of London continues to bring people together as it encourages the need for inclusion and harmony.

According to the latest Census in 2021, London's Bangladeshi population in is now 322,054, with the majority living in Tower Hamlets, Newham, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham and Camden.

## *Learning from the pandemic*

*The learnings from COVID and the need to address the healthcare inequalities were instrumental to the development of the London Bangladeshi Health Partnership.*

*ONS data showed that during the second wave of the pandemic, COVID-19 case rates were highest among Bangladeshi communities. The community also had a lower vaccine uptake compared to other communities.*

*Health messages and resources need to be coproduced with the communities, translated and culturally relevant.*

*Sustained community engagement is important in order to build trust between the community and the health system. Partnership and coproduction are an important part of the process.*

## *Where next for the London Bangladeshi Health Partnership?*

- ✓ *Diabetes prevention, management and awareness.*
- ✓ *Hearing and responding to community priorities (focus groups and insights) to inform immunisations and screening uptake.*
- ✓ *Hearing and responding to community priorities (focus groups and insights) general.*





## **Working towards health equity for London Bangladeshis**

**Utilising the insights and experiences of LBHP members to:**

- ✓ **Foster strong engagement with communities and faith networks, deepening health system understanding of effective approaches to overcoming barriers to health services.**
- ✓ **Achieve effective outcomes, working in real-time in partnership with the health system to respond to emerging priorities.**
- ✓ **Utilising learning to inform future work, connecting with other health networks, supporting the NHS and relevant partners.**

